

JÖRGER VON TOLLET, Johann

Septimius Reichsgraf

Styria 1596 – 1672

Johann Septimius Freiherr Jörger von Tollet (the L: Baro in his signature stands for Liber Baro, or Freiherr) was the second son of Maximilian Karl Jörger von Tollet. Born in Austria to a noble Protestant family that traced its lineage back to the 13th century, he took part in the Bohemian Revolt in 1618, following which he fled to Venice. Other members of the family returned to the Catholic faith, but Johann Septimius was permanently expelled from Austria for his beliefs. He travelled through Germany from 1629, settling in Nürnberg in 1636. In 1659 Kaiser Leopold I. raised him to the rank of Reichsgraf.

He was an amateur draughtsman in chalk and an engraver, making portraits, landscapes and allegorical designs. A lost self-portrait showing him holding a drawing, medium unknown, was engraved by several artists. He also formed an important art collection in Nürnberg, including a large library as well as a cabinet of curiosities. In 1668 he was obliged to leave Nürnberg following a legal dispute, abandoning his property and collections.

Two years before the date of this coloured chalk drawing, Queen Christina's conversion to Catholicism was public knowledge. Johann Septimius's sister was called Christina Regina (1592–1661) (his son August was also a convert); however there can be no doubt of the identity of the sitter since the image is clearly derived from the 1650 Hollar engraving of her after a painting by David Beck.

Bibliography

Johann Samuel Ersch & al., *Allgemeines Encyclopädie der Wissenschaften und Künste*, Leipzig, 1844, II/23, p. 34; Grove

Pastels

J.4216.101 Drottning KRISTINA (1626–1689), pstl, 38.5x26.5, sd ✓ “Io:Septimius Jörger/L:Baro fecit 1657” (Stockholm, Bukowskis, 7.XII.2011, Lot 338 repr., est. SKr150–175,000, b/i; Stockholm, Bukowskis, 2–5.VI.2015, Lot 1139 repr., est. SwKr25–30,000) φ

